

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING

September 7, 2006

(Approved October 5, 2006)

Members Present: Edward Murdough, Brad Simpkins, Michael Williams, Carl Roediger, David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Kevin Pratt, Al Burbank, John Hoglund, Peter Russell, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: Karen Schlitzer, Earl Sweeney, Joseph Butts, George Sykes, J. William Degnan.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services*—Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Jeff Phillips, Bureau Chief; Heather Newland, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Call to Order. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair David Duquette at 10:10 a.m. on Thursday, September 7, 2006 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. June 1, 2006. ***Motion*** was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Carrier, to approve the Minutes of the June 1, 2006 Commission Meeting: Motion passed.

Item 2. June 1, 2006 Public Hearing. ***Motion*** was made by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Roediger to approve the Minutes of the June 1, 2006 Public Hearing: Motion passed. Commissioner Carrier abstained.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services. Chair Duquette stated there is a meeting scheduled for next Thursday.

Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office. No report was given.

Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Simpkins gave the following report:

- (a) In-state activity:
 - Fires to date: 440
 - Acres to date: 489
- (b) Out-of-state activity has been very heavy, the heaviest since 2000. So far this year we have sent out 96 resources, including 80 firefighters and 16 single resources such as Ground Support Unit Leader, Fireline EMT's, Communication Unit Leader, Division Supervisor, Engine Boss, dispatcher, public information officer, and interagency resource representatives. Currently we still have a crew in Wyoming.
- (c) We have filled one of the two forest ranger vacancies. Jamie-Lynn Sheehy started in July in the northern Sullivan County/southern Grafton County area. The second position we are still trying to fill.
- (d) A brand new cab was placed on the Magalloway Fire Tower in August. It was assembled using a helicopter. The replaced cab had stood for 38 years. We continue to do much needed maintenance on the remaining fire towers.
- (e) The Bureau's new Type VI wildland engine should be in service by November 1. It is currently having the body installed and then will be going to OME for radio/light installation. This will be primarily for initial attack in Coos County, but will be available statewide based on need.
- (f) The annual weekend training will be on September 30 at Fox State Forest in Hillsborough. This will primarily be classroom training based on some identified needs. We are hoping to start planning next year's training as soon as we are done with the current year's and would like to do a large-fire simulated training similar to past weekend trainings.

Item 4. Curriculum Review. Chair Duquette reported that the Curriculum Status Report by Chief Rosolen is in each Commission member's packet and is as follows:

- (a) **Driver/Operator:**
 - (1) Pumps:
 - (2) Aerial Apparatus:

The visiting committee has met recently and are looking at the IFSTA curriculum to supplement Dave Duquette's program, which will then be updated. Still waiting to hear from the committee.

(3) All Vehicle:

We are currently looking for places to hold the practical portion as this is becoming difficult to offer because of the lack of space to hold the driver practical.

(b) **Hazardous Materials:**

(1) Operations:

(2) Technician:

Class scheduled in Dover in this month.

(3) A Train-the-Trainer took place in August using the Vermont program. This will be presented possibly in the fall.

(c) **Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:**

Spring part 139 eight-hour programs have begun. A 40-hour certification class is scheduled for October and there are 11 applications thus far. Looks like a go!

(d) **NFPA 1030 Series:**

(1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners:

Inspector II Visiting Committee has started the process. The first three days will be cognitive and class activities, and the last two days will cover Citations. The committee plans to come before the curriculum committee and commission in December.

(2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator: Committee is very close in finishing their curriculum and are estimating to come before the Commission's curriculum committee in December or January.

(3) NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator:
Will probably follow the 1033 standard.

(e) **Rescue Series:**

(1) Structural Collapse:

No pilots scheduled as yet. It was learned that Rope, Trench, Confined Space, and Vehicle/Machinery Extrication are necessary to have before Structural Collapse can be offered according to the standard.

(2) Confined Space:

A confined space trailer is in the process of being purchased from Mike Carrier of Merrimack Fire at this time.

(3) Technical Rope Rescue:

Curriculum was approved at the May 5, 2005 Commission meeting. We may be sending visiting committee members out to CMC for training and come back to do TtT's.

(4) Trench Rescue:

Approved for pilot.

- (5) Water Rescue/Ice:
Four instructors attended a three-day TtT on February 17-19 to return to present the program for review.
- (f) NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and Firefighter II:
- (g) NFPA 1021 Fire Officer:
A fall class is scheduled here in October and November.
- (h) NFPA 1041 Instructor:
An Instructor III class is scheduled for the Woodstock area this fall. A Trainer-the-Trainer for Instructor is scheduled this fall with a pilot class in Concord.
- (i) NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighter:
Doing well at this point.
- (j) C2F2
The August class is completed and one is scheduled for recruit school in October. A committee has been formed to review the program as it has been three years that it has been offered and some issues have come up that need to be addressed.

Chief Rosolen stated it was time to revisit the C2F2 program. We've run the program for about three years now and it's time to revise the program. Every five years the division looks at the curriculum that has an NFPA Standard to update to the standard. There is no standard for this curriculum. Chief Rosolen discussed situations that have been happening with this program during the skills review day. It is happening more often than by Thursday and Fridays of the program, the students are still not meeting the skills. The combined ops day at the end, we're still having problems with people being able to fulfill the basic skills. We are currently drafting competency profiles to address this. But the program needs to be reviewed as a whole to see if we are accomplishing the goal.

Chair Duquette stated a visiting committee needs to be established. Chief Rosolen stated the visiting committee for this program is different from the normal visiting committees. The last visiting committee reviewed the residency issue; many fire chiefs were on this committee. Director Mason and Chief Rosolen discussed the history of the C2F2 Visiting Committees.

Chief Rosolen stated the fire chiefs are expecting students to come out of C2F2 and go right into the job. This program only provides the basics.

Chair Duquette stated the original goal was to make sure when someone was hired as a full time firefighter, and there was a lapse if they were going into a paid department, that they could be brought up to speed with the basic skills.

There were comments made regarding the expectations of the program by Chair Duquette, Commissioner Roediger, and Chief Rosolen. Chief Rosolen discussed problems with the last class: the skills review evolutions. Chief Rosolen also stated maybe the students aren't practicing the skills back at work.

There was discussion regarding if the program should be pre-employment. Comments made by Commissioner Roediger and Chair Duquette. Commissioner Roediger stated it's a function of teamwork. Maybe this program could be made as part of the State written test and CPAT, make it a two week in house program to develop teamwork, the two weeks would be a good foundation. Chair Duquette stated a community can't pay for the two weeks.

Commissioner Murdough stated there needs to be more consistency. The evaluations need to be controlled. Commissioner Burbank stated they are trying to review skills and build esprit de corps of teamwork. To build a team, you work at it. To expect to build teamwork in two weeks and evaluating skills require teamwork. You can't evaluate teamwork on a group of people thrown together for ten days.

Director Mason stated an evaluation and review is not synonymous. The visiting committee recommended it as an evaluation not a review.

There was some discussion on the skills review day. Commissioner Burbank recommended the committee look at all evolutions, that they are absolutely restricted, no freelancing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Roediger to establish a committee to review the content of the final report dated March 28, 2003 of the Certified Career Firefighter C2F2 Visiting Committee to ensure we are in compliance at this time with that document: Motion passed.

Director Mason recommended the following individuals for the Committee: Dick Martel, Bob Irish, Mark Lemay, and a couple people from the Bureau of Training and Certification. Chair Duquette recommended Commissioner Murdough, Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Burbank, Commissioner Williams, Commissioner Pratt

and himself for the committee. Director Mason will send out a complete packet of documents needed.

Commissioner Carrier stated maybe you need to focus some of the direction towards the instructors. He stated he hears over and over that attitude and consistency of some instructors is difficult for the students to determine. They might be getting sent mixed messages by some of the instructors for the program. If you asked the instructors what they expected from the students, you'd probably get at least five different answers. Director Mason indicated they did meet with the instructors a while back. We hand pick instructors for this program.

Chief Rosolen stated we can only set the foundation. The Chiefs are expecting us to do their job. We can only give the students the basics.

(k) ICS/NIMS

Starting to regionalize these programs for more effective and economical delivery.

Item 5. Hiring Practices Committee. Commissioner Burbank had met with Chief Pope. Chief Pope will be sending the Director his thesis. Once this is done, we will meet to finalize the project.

IV. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Director Mason introduced Mike Maloney as the new maintenance staff employee. Mike is replacing Guy Guinta's position.

Item 1. Director's Report #103. The Director's Report #103 for September 7, 2006 was as follows:

Well summer is history and it is time to get rolling for the fall and winter programs. A bit is going on and it's an exciting time to be part of many positive changes.

1) **CALL TO BROTHERHOOD II**

Over the summer we have been communicating with Hooksett Captain Gary Lambert about the N.H. Fallen Firefighter Memorial, it seemed like such a long road! Well it is a reality!

- August 25-27, 2006 the Fire Academy was descended upon by about 200 fire Service Personnel and made the Memorial a reality!
- September 10, 2006 at 11:00am we will have a dedication ceremony for the memorial with an address by Governor Lynch and others.
- A VERY special thanks to Captain Lambert and his brothers Keith, Eric & Aaron (and Ryan Fortin, Chris Roy and Barbara Belanger who also worked many weekends in advance) for their extreme dedication to this memorial!

Director Mason added that the Call to Brotherhood I was the Pittsburgh Fire Station. Director Mason showed a presentation of the Call to Brotherhood II, the building of the N.H. Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

2) WAIVER RULES

HB 303 of 2005 allowed the Commissioner to grant waivers to the hiring and training rules. The final rules are attached. We have a few pending requests. I recommend a sub-committee to review requests for commission action.

3) ACADEMY AWARDS

As you have seen in the summer's emails the committee has agreed upon a list of 2006 Academy Award and Fire Service Award of Excellence recipients:

Academy Awards:

- Chief Charles Q. Hall (Retired)
- Jonathan Kipp (Primex³)
- Dr. Denis Onieal (Superintendent-National Fire Academy)
- Assistant Commissioner Earl Sweeney (Department of Safety)
- Scott Weden (Local Government Center)

Fire Service Award of Excellence:

- Periklis Karoutas (Congressman Bradley's Office)
- Representative E. Albert Weare (NH House of Representatives)

4) COMMISSION SEATS

- Chairman David Duquette has been re-nominated by the Professional Firefighters.
- Commissioner "Butch" Burbank has been re-confirmed for a term to end August 1, 2009.
- Commissioner's Roediger & Williams are in process for the NHAFC seats.
- Commissioner Russell will be stepping down in November after more than a decade of service to the Commission. He represents the Local Government Center and a replacement is yet to be named.
- 2007 Commission seats will be:
 - Federation of Mutual Aid Associations-Commissioner Pratt, June 16, 2007
 - Insurance Industry-Commissioner Hogland, April 14, 2007.

5) ENTRANCE TEST

The entrance test has begun with the written and aerial climb last week. The CPAT will begin today and be offered for a week. Statistics so far are 501 paid registrants, 367 attended the exam and 66% passed. All are invited to participate in the CPAT whether passing the written or not. All statistics will be given next month.

Director Mason added he had received a complaint from Goffstown that is in the Attorney General's Office right now. There were three or four call firefighters that have earned more than the amount allows in the

Administrative Rules. Therefore, the complaint sent was that they should start paying retirement. We don't know if it's strictly a retirement issue or if we have to go back to make sure the proper training is done for C2F2. He recommended to strike the dollar amount from the Administrative Rules. The Attorney General was trying to get the information from her office for today; it should be here for the next meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Administrative Rules: Discussion on which Administrative Rules had to be changed or reviewed. Chair Duquette stated the suggestions will be addressed by the attorney for Safety.

Item 2. I-93 Project. Commissioner Murdough stated there were meetings over the summer. They have made recommendation to D.O.T. as to what to do with the planning money that is available. There is another meeting in September.

Item 3. Firefighters' Memorial Brick. Commissioner Carrier stated the mistakes on the bricks are being rectified.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Hiring/Training Requirement Waiver Requests. Director Mason indicated Dale Boyd is going back to the departments. There are three that have put in for new retirement, and we do believe they are fire chiefs. We are getting the needed information for the next meeting.

Chair Duquette asked if the Commission wants to review the waivers at each meeting. Director Mason stated if there were any questions, he would bring it to the attention of the Commission. Some discussion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Murdough, seconded by Commissioner Burbank to delegate the task of waivers to the Director and his staff: Motion passed.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. Commissioner Carrier stated he had received a request from Lt. Scott Carrigan asking if a new firefighter he hired was required to take C2F2. The firefighter was full time on Pelham from 1997 to 1999 and left

Pelham to work for a fire department in New York where he has worked since. Now the firefighter is coming back to Nashua. There was no break in service from what they say, however, there obviously was a break in service in New Hampshire. Some discussion.

Chair Duquette stated it would have to be researched.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Carrier, seconded by Commissioner Burbank, to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 09/07/06
2. Minutes of Meeting – 05/04/06 – Approved 06/01/06
3. Curriculum Status Report 09/07/06
4. Minutes of Meeting – 06/01/06 – Not Approved
5. Minutes of Public Hearing – 06/01/06 – Not Approved
6. Director's Report #103—September 7, 2006
7. Number of Personnel Certified in NH 07/01/06 to 09/07/06
8. Report from Forest Protection Bureau 09/07/06
9. PART Fire 704 WAIVERS
10. Dedication Announcement for Fallen Firefighter's Memorial